APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to question No. 361 asked by Mr. C. Gopala Menon at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 12th August 1929, page 612 supra.]

Copy of the letter from the Honorary Joint Secretary, the Prohibition League, Malabar (Servants of India Society's Home, Calicut), dated 28th April 1929.

It has come to the notice of the League that most of the toddy and arrack shops are kept in a dirty condition and that ordinary rules of cleanliness and sanitation are not observed. Of course, the shop-keepers violate rules governing the hours of sale, etc. The League would suggest that the Members of the Excise Licensing Boards and the Advisory Committee should be permitted to inspect the shops and note down their remarks. Copies of the same remarks should be submitted by the licensee to the Collector of the district and the Assistant Commissioner of Excise with his explanation. These officers may be empowered if they are not already authorized, to award punishment or prosecute the licensee for violating the conditions of licence. I have no doubt the Government will be pleased to accept this suggestion. If the suggestion is accepted the Government will also be enlisting the sympathy of the public in observing that the rules framed by them are properly and systematically complied with.

Memorandum No. 1124-*D*/29-2, *Revenue, dated the* 14*th June* 1929.

Excise—Shops—Sanitation—Inspection by Members of Excise Licensing Boards and Advisory Committees.

Under condition 3 of the general conditions applicable to all abkari and opium licences, the licensees are required to keep their shop premises in a sanitary condition to the satisfaction of the Inspecting Officers. Shops are regularly inspected by Sub-Inspectors, Assistant Inspectors and Inspectors and occasionally by the Assistant Commissioners and Revenue Officers, who take this opportunity to enforce the condition regarding cleanliness. Further, under the Local Boards and District Municipalities Acts, the Chairman and his subordinate officers are empowered to inspect any premises including liquor shops, with a view to enforcing proper sanitation. The Government do not think that it is necessary to provide for any further inspection such as is suggested by the Malabar Prohibition League. It will be an advantage however if any member of the Licensing Board or Advisory Committee will bring to the notice of the Revenue or Excise officers instances in which the sanitation of a shop is found to be defective or the prescribed hours of sale are disregarded. The Government have no doubt that suitable action will be taken on any such representations.

H. R. PATE,
Secretary to Government.

To M.R.Ry. R. Suryanarayana Rao Avargal, B. A., Honorary Joint Secretary, Prohibition League, Malabar, Calicut.

Copy to the Commissioner of Excise.